

Summary of the Senate Committee on Education’s CTE meeting.

Wiley Barzelay, UVM Legislative Intern for the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development.

2/9/24

The EMS CTE program at CVCC:

- Two year program, starting in 11th grade.
 - First year: Participants gain their EMT Basic certification
 - Second year: Participants work towards their paramedic certification
 - Their program is the only one in the state offering second year EMS training to high schoolers. It is the only program in the country offering paramedic certification to high school seniors.
- Work directly with ambulance teams on a weekly basis.
- Students divide their time between CVCC and their traditional school. They spend less time at their traditional school as they progress through the program, however.

Testimony from three EMS 2 students at CVCC:

- Overwhelmingly positive experiences:
 - “Invaluable experience”
 - “Best decision I have ever made in my life”
- Works better for them than traditional education.
 - More “hands on” and experiential
 - Helped them discover and develop their passion for medicine.

Issues & concerns:¹

- Pay differences: those who teach at CTE centers make less than those who choose to work. This can make it challenging to find staff.
- Certification burden: EMS instructors must work in the field regularly to keep their certification, in addition to teaching. This is not a misguided requirement, but it is burdensome.
- Increasing demand: the amount of EMS staff has remained largely flat while call volume has increased in recent years.
- Calendar differences: Students come from different schools and different districts with different academic calendars. This can create scheduling difficulties within CTE programs.

¹ Testimony for this information came from Carl Matteson, EMS 2 Instructor at CVCC, and Jody Emerson, Director and Superintendent at CVCC.

Elenore Johnson (CTE student)

- Second year emergency services program at Vermont Career center
 - Gained a lot of connections, found passion
 - Worked with EMS agencies she worked with
 - Work in her community
 - Trying to gain paramedic license.
 - Has allowed her to move faster than usual
 - “Invaluable experience”
 - Why attend?
 - Challenges in traditional high school setting
 - Wanted to find something she was passionate about
- Questions
 - Do you volunteer?
 - Yes, barre and watertown
 - High school age? How many colleagues?
 - Four in her program, 20 in the whole thing ish
 - How does the program assist you in transitioning to a career path qualification wise
 - First year: EMT Basic certification.
 - Second year: paramedic license
 - Total of 38 credits.
 - When you finish, do you have a vision?
 - Keep working in emergency services.
 - Be a flight paramedic.

Ruso sonia

- Second year EMS person
 - Required to practice below her qualifications until she turns 18
 - Left high school
 - Wanted community and collaboration of CTE centers.
 - Pursue her childhood dreams.
 - Works as an EMR. Wants to be a flight paramedic.
- Questions:
 - Do you talk to your friends about it?
 - She talked to 10th graders about it
 - Discussion of expanding it to freshman and sophomores. Yes?
 - Feels two ways:
 - There is already an exploratory class for sophomores.

- But jumping in as a freshman would be really hard. Knowledge gained at the early levels was good

Mackensie

- Second year EMS
 - Struggled in typical school setting. Didn't fit typical learning style
 - Interest in medicine
 - Working as an EMR at 16 years old.
 - "Best decision I have ever made in my life"
 - Great for hands on learning
 - Works with Waterbury Ambulance
 - Wants to be a paramedic.

Carl Matteson EMS 2 Instructor

- 5th year teaching. 35th year in EMS
- Started as a sophomore
- Amount of EMS is flat, call volume is increasing. Big demand for EMS statewide
- Only one doing a second year EMS program
 - Only one in the country doing second year at paramedic for high school seniors
- One day a week they work in a lab with other students and instructors
- Questions
 - They'll be $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way through the paramedic program at graduation.
 - Hard to attract instructors at CTE?
 - It is an issue, not hugely relevant for him
 - Tradesmen make much more working than teaching.
 - Call volume up?
 - Statewide, 160-170k a year -> 230-240k
 - Same workforce size

Jody Emerson, Director and Superintendent, Central Vermont Career Center

- Students are literally working in ambulances in the afternoon and evening
 - They're serving their communities, and loving it!
- Teachers aren't compensated as much as private sector
 - EMS teachers have to work in the field to keep their license.
 - How to be easier?
 - Having some support for keeping industry credentials. National paramedic certification.
 - Depends on field to keep industry credential.
- Differences in calendar?
 - Calendar coordination would be good.